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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,674	12/20/2001	Paul M. Lesley	213249	2071
23460	7590	10/06/2003	EXAMINER	
LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD TWO PRUDENTIAL PLAZA, SUITE 4900 180 NORTH STETSON AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60601-6780			BALSIS, SHAY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1744	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,674

Applicant(s)

LESLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Shay L Balsis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/20/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-7, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fernandez (USPN 6588045).

Fernandez teaches a cleaning implement comprising a shaft (12), a mop head (14) and a wringing mechanism (34) that is movable with respect to the shaft. The wringer passes over the mop head and expels liquid from the mop head. The mop comprises a liquid absorbent material (20) and an abrasive material (42). A connecting link (30) connects the mop head and the shaft. The connecting link comprises a portion sliding and pivoting about a pivoting surface. The wringer includes a slot (34a) for receiving a portion of the connecting link. The connecting link is comprised of a resilient material to allow the link to bend and flex with activation of the wringer. The connecting link is connected to the shaft via a connector (26, 28), which inhibits axial movement of the wringer and shaft beyond a predetermined axial position.

3. Claims 1-6, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sartori (USPN 5381579).

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Sartori teaches a cleaning implement comprising a shaft (1), a mop head (2) and a wringing mechanism (10) with a grip portion that is movable with respect to the shaft. The wringer passes over the mop head and expels liquid from the mop head. A connecting link (4) connects the mop head and the shaft. The connecting link comprises a portion sliding and pivoting about a pivoting surface. The wringer includes a slot (not shown) in a grip portion for receiving a portion of the connecting link. The connecting link is comprised of a resilient material to allow the link to bend and flex with activation of the wringer. The connecting link is connected to the shaft via a connector (not shown), which inhibits axial movement of the wringer and shaft beyond a predetermined axial position.

4. Claims 1, 5, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis (USPN 5724694).

Lewis teaches a cleaning implement comprising a shaft (11), a mop head (12) and a wringing mechanism (22) with at least two spaced apart rollers (27) and a grip portion (45) that is movable with respect to the shaft. The wringer passes over the mop head and expels liquid from the mop head. A connecting link (19) connects the mop head and the shaft. The connecting link, which is comprised of a resilient member, is connected to the shaft via a connector (16). The connector engages a portion of the wringer to inhibit axial movement of the wringer and shaft beyond a predetermined axial position.

5. Claims 1, 5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Petner (USPN RE37415E).

Petner teaches a cleaning implement comprising a shaft (12), a mop head (16) and a wringing mechanism (14) with at least two spaced apart rollers (69) and a grip portion (26) that

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is movable with respect to the shaft. The mop comprises a liquid absorbent material (17) and an abrasive material (24). The wringer passes over the mop head and expels liquid from the mop head. A connecting link (36) connects the mop head and the shaft. The connecting link, which is comprised of a resilient member, is connected to the shaft via a connector. The connector engages a portion of the wringer to inhibit axial movement of the wringer and shaft beyond a predetermined axial position.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fernandez in view of Chen (USPN 6061863).

Fernandez teaches the essential elements of the claimed invention however the reference fails to teach at least two rollers on the wringing mechanism. Chen teaches mop with a wringing mechanism comprising at least two rollers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made use at least two rollers instead of just one as taught by Chen because it allows the mop head to be squeezed dry its entirety, eliminating excessive wetness.

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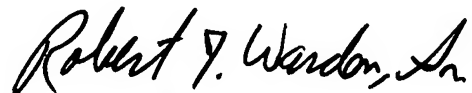
Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shay L Balsis whose telephone number is 703-305-7275. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00 M-Th, alternating F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Warden can be reached on 703-308-2920. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5665.

Slb
9/12/03



ROBERT J. WARDEN, SR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700